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rendered; nevertheless, it has in the course of time become one of the principal forms of help in the so-called outdoor relief (*offene Armenpflege*). The existing institutions for indoor relief (*geschlossene Armenpflege*), which provides homes for the poor and aged, are not numerous enough to receive all those needing them.

Poor relief varies very much according to the wealth of the supporting community; it is better in the larger towns and bad in the poorer districts of the country side. One particular

drawback is the fact that a person may be received in a community other than that to which his parents belonged only after a ten years' residence. A great number of people, therefore, belong to a different community from the one in which they live.

The public poor relief finds its complement in institutions and societies of voluntary poor relief. At present all these institutions are laboring under a severe serious lack of means as far as they are dependent on voluntary contributions or on a capital income.

CHAPTER XIV

The Present State of the Housing Question in Austria

By HEINRICH GOLDEMUND

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STRANGELY enough, though the population of Austria has diminished from 6,279,936 in the year 1910, to 6,057,612 in the year 1920, in all the seven greater towns of the Austrian Republic, but especially in Vienna, there has resulted a severe shortage of vacant apartments.

In the country since the year 1910, the number of inhabitants has shrunk from 3,877,787 to 3,810,667, a comparatively small decrease, whereas in the same length of time the number of the inhabitants of the towns has been reduced from 2,402,176 to 2,246,950. This loss almost exclusively concerns Vienna, its population having been reduced from 2,031,421 in the year 1910 to 1,841,326 in the year 1920, while the other German Austrian towns, such as Graz, Linz, Innsbruck, and Wiener-Neustadt, with the exception of Klagenfurt, show a growth of population. Yet the housing calamity is greatest in Vienna. The diminution of the population in all German

Austria, but especially in Vienna, is compensated by an increase in the number of householders within the territories now comprised in German Austria. Whereas 1,391,230 householders were recorded in 1910, there were 1,444,226 listed in 1920.

The increase of householders is limited to the towns, while a small diminution is noticeable in the country districts. In Vienna alone, the increase of householders amounts to 38,678 while it averages only 14,919 in the other large towns. This increased number of householders which is to be accounted for by the immigration of whole families and the setting-up of house-keeping by numerous young married couples (who were prevented from doing so as long as the War was on), does not meet with an equal increase in the number of flats. As a matter of fact there has been hardly any private mansion building since 1914. If anything, the number of apartments for private families has decreased. Some

have been restored to their former uses, and are now occupied by offices of the government economic control departments, or of newly-founded business and banking concerns.

In Vienna about 52,000 applicants for vacant apartments, among them 18,000 whose claims deserve most urgent attention, have booked their names in the registers of the municipal housing board. In the other greater towns of the Republic we may reckon with an urgent need for from 9,000 to 10,000 dwellings.

In this connection it may be observed that among the working classes the former custom of sub-letting rooms is much less practiced now, whereas the middle classes have taken it up to a wide extent.

RENT AND HOUSING LAWS

The great demand for apartments on the one hand, and the total lack of any offer of the same, on the other, entailed the danger of a wild rent speculation, and measures had to be devised to protect the less solvent part of the population against undue raises in the rents and against evictions. It was therefore made compulsory that on evacuation all flats were to be exclusively allotted to the would-be tenants through the intermediary of the municipal housing boards. Moreover, a law for the protection of tenants greatly restricted the right of landlords to give notice at their own free will or to raise the rents, and subjected this right to the control of the newly instituted housing boards. Owing to these measures the rents, contrary to the exorbitant demand of all other commodities and necessities of life, show but a moderate increase, that is, about 50 per cent. At present a raising of the rents corresponding to the diminished purchasing value of the currency is being discussed; nobody, however,

would dare carry it into effect, even by degrees, for fear of arousing great public sentiment.

The fight against the housing calamity throughout all Austrian towns is opposed by the greatest difficulties. The building cost of residential mansions has augmented a hundred-fold over 1914 so that only a similar raising of rents could ensure the sums required to pay for interest and amortization. At such enormous rents, however, flats could find no tenants, great as is the demand.

STATE ENCOURAGEMENT OF BUILDING ENTERPRISES

The government and the town councils are endeavoring to encourage private enterprises in house building by granting subsidies, and monetary credits, and by charging themselves with the payment of interest and regular quotas towards redemption. On the building of all houses the revenues of which are too small to allow of the regular payment of interest and redemption quotas, costs called "the lost building expenditure" are allowed.

By a law dated April 15, 1921, a dwelling and colonization fund has been founded, which, through shares taken by the state, by employers and by all workmen who belong to the obligatory sickness, old age insurance and other funds, will provide larger means for social help. The revenue of the fund will amount to about 160 million kronen yearly, which, including the contributions of the municipality and the employers, will suffice for the payment of interest and redemption quotas corresponding to a building capital of about 3 billion kronen. With this sum, which will first have to be raised in cash by the banks and savings banks, could be built from 5,000 to 6,000 small dwellings, consisting of one room and kitchen each, a

number which, compared with the demands for dwellings, described above, would bring but little relief.

Another suggestion to further the building of dwellings by capitalists aims at increasing the building of dwellings

with renting capacities by exemption of such from all taxes. But the hesitation caused by the present condition of the public finances which seems to oppose this particular solution, has not yet been overcome.

CHAPTER XV

Criminality in Austria

By DR. WENZEL GLEISPACH

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CRIMINALITY and similar aspects of social life are the reverse of the social and economic conditions and the moral character of a nation. When a heavy economic crisis, the dissolution of a great empire and a vast social subversion coincide, criminality must increase and morality decline. So far as the social condition of Austria is concerned, the unfavorable effects of war-time and the issues of both the War and the Revolution are also to be included. Still further ominous to social life were the misuse of army supplies; the enrichment of many persons at the expense of the nation, the numbers of men who had managed to escape the army service and the excess of governmental prescriptions, which often could not be kept and so weakened the fear of infringing governmental authority. Disastrous, too, was the great disillusionment of all who had sacrificed themselves during the War, expecting some reward, and who, when it was over, had only to endure increased distress and heavier burdens.

The collapse of traditional powers and the creation of a young democracy were additional sources of difficulty for the government since the substitution of a democratic republic for a monarchy must inevitably have ill

effects. The case of the Revolution does not afford a special study of criminal law. We can simply state that the abolition of the monarchy and the institution of the republic took place almost without resistance and bloodshed, an adjustment such as has seldom occurred in history. The Revolution, therefore, did not become in Austria, as so often happens, the starting point and the contagious example for blood-shed and violent deeds. But, on the other hand, the Revolution has been hailed, in pardonable error, as liberation from every authority, as the beginning of a time when only rights exist, and not duties or regard for others. This error is pardonable since democracy requires the highest social and national sentiment, while the Austrian has scarcely been educated far enough to become a good citizen. He has received no training from history, for at the collapse of the old Austria its constitutional life was not older than half a century and the participation of the masses much younger still; or from his schooling, for social education is almost totally neglected in the schools.

The error has been further fed and propagated by the Bolshevik agitation and the papers it controls. The seeds of Bolshevism find most fertile